

Abstract

Method for Printing a Surface

The invention pertains to a method for printing a plastic surface (18) by means of hot-stamping with a metallic hot-stamping tool (3) that can be heated and is coated with plastic. The plastic-coated outer surface of the hot-stamping tool (3) forms the stamping surface (7). The stamping surface (7) transfers a pigment layer (9) applied onto the carrier foil (10) to the work piece (16) when the carrier foil (10) is pressed against the surface (18) of a work piece (16) to be printed. The work piece surface (18) to be printed is preheated before the printing process with the aid of a heating device (22), wherein the temperature of the stamping surface (7) of the hot-stamping tool lies between 140 °C and 240 °C, preferably between 200 °C and 220 °C. This extends the service life of the hot-stamping tools and the set-up times of the hot-stamping device (1) are simultaneously reduced. The invention also makes it possible to print a larger quantity of work pieces (16) within a shorter period of time because the work pieces (16) are no longer heated by the hot-stamping tool (3) alone, but also by the upstream heating device (22).